

Are we ‘Athir’ Excusers of Shirk?

The position of Ahl us Sunnāh wal Jamm’āh

by Yasir ibn Saleem

Recently some people assume that others are ‘Excusers of Shirk’ or they believe a man can fall into Shirk Akbar without any prevention of Takfir, and still be classed as a Muwahhid. And this is an accusation rather against those that follow the middle path of Ahl us Sunnāh wal Jammāh. This accusation is in fact baseless and flawed and has no grounds upon which to stand upon.

What we find is for some of the Ghulaat Juhaal they will entertain their entire time into investigating other peoples Aqeed’ah, in particular to know whether or not this person he himself has excused who this examiner has decided to leave Islam. And this is an endless circle of questions and testing done so in order for those who are grounded upon the Middle Path between the Murji’ah and Khawarij, We find many having to explain upon where they stand. Hence this short article should debunk the lies, accusations, and make clarity upon where we stand as followers of The Messenger صلى الله عليه وسلم Muhammad Ibn ‘Abdillāh, the Imām of the Muwahhidīn and his noble Companions (May Allah swt be pleased with them All).

So to proceed let us make it perfectly clear that whoever commits the Kufr akbar or Shirk Akbar is Mushrik as far as we are concerned in the Dunya, even though that is not necessarily the situation in the hereafter because Allah (swt) pledged never to punish people who the message never reached them.

So the Hukm in the Dunya is something different to the Hukm of the Akhirah, if we say someone is Kafir in the Dunya does not mean that he is necessarily in the hellfire in the hereafter and that is only in the hands of Allah. besides those people that Allah mentioned by name that he is in the hellfire, we do not know what will happen to anybody in the hereafter.

In the matters that are not apparent matters, (i.e. matters that are masaa’il al khafiyyah and not Jaliyyah) will not necessarily become Kafir if he did it, but those that are jaliyyah are Kafir because the Hujjah has been established already, those people are Kafir as far as the Dunya is concerned even if they are jahil.

Imam ibn Qayyim spoke about the Muqallid people who follow blindly, how Allah promised to punish them and they will argue among each other,

“O our lord, they misguided us so give them a double punishment.”

The most famous people who committed apostasy were those who opposed Abu Bakr Al Siddeeq, and the worshippers of Ali who were burnt by Ali with fire and we know how all the people who committed these types of kufr in all times such as Qadianis, isma’eelis etc are all jahil.

Allah (swt) mentioned,

“They followed their fathers and leaders and followed in their footsteps.”

And,

“O our lord, we were following our leaders, our chiefs and they misguided us so punish them double punishment and curse them a big curse.”

Imam ibn Qayyim said,

“What cause those people who worship the graves to have Fitnah despite the fact that they know that those graves cannot benefit them or harm them is that they are ignorant about the reality on what Allah has sent to the Messengers and the shaytan has guided them to the shirk.”

And

“There is consensus of the Muslims that the one who makes intercessor between them and Allah is Kafir Mushrik even if he was jahil.” That is known by necessity.

Sheikh Muhammad ibn Abdul Wahhab in Durar Al Saniyyah, he said,

“If you know a man became Kafir with his tongue, he could have been jahil but he has no excuse by his ignorance.”

Sheikh Abdullah bin Abdul Rahman said,

“Any action nowadays that people see in front of those shrines and graves, he is Mushrik Kafir without doubt because that is mentioned in the Qur’an explicitly. We know that there are some people who do that who call themselves muslims.”

Sulayman Sahman said,

“There is no excuse of ignorance for the one who does not believe in Allah or the messenger ...”

And Allah described the jews and Christians as Kuffar despite the fact that they are jaahil without doubt. The Qur’an explains that any doubt about the foundation of the Deen is Kufr.

We cannot just speak about the excuse of ignorance in every topic. The Messenger of Allah spoke about the Khawaarij having the best worship and recitation and yet they fell in the kufr because of the ignorance. In the books of the fiqh is the chapter of apostasy and his rules. The first thing in these books is the Shirk, “the one who associates with Allah has disbelieved.”

And they never said except if he was jahil, they said, “if someone did that he will not be excused by ignorance.”

Allah (swt) said,

“(they will say) if we heard or understood we would never be from the people of hellfire.”
So they did not understand or have knowledge, but that was no excuse, Allah (swt) says,
“they have eyes they do not see with and ears ... and hearts they do not hear with ...” [7:179]

and Allah (swt) says,

“Do you want to know who is the failure? Those whose deeds were failure but they thought that they were doing good deeds.”

Allah (swt) says,

“A group of people are guided and a group destined to be misguided because they protect the Shayateen and they think that they are guided.” [7:30]

Ibn Jareer said,

“Is that not evidence that the ignorant have no excuse?”

And Imam Al baghawi and Imam Al Tabari said,

“This is an evidence that the Kafir who think that their deen is haq and the jahil are all the same.”
Ali ibn Abi Talib (ra) when he burnt people who claimed that he was a god, punished people whose disease was their ignorance.

These ayaat does not give excuse to anybody. Uday ibn Haatim reported when the prophet recited the ayah

“They take their priests and rabbis as lords ...”

He asked him, “how did we worship them?”

He said, “did they not forbid what Allah permit and permit what Allah forbade and you obeyed them?”

He said, “yes” he replied, “that is how they worshipped them.”

That is despite the fact that they were ignorant the way even Uday did not know that that was how they worshipped the rabbis.

Sheikh ul Islam said,

“There is consensus of the Ulemaa that if anybody takes an intercessor to benefit or harm him is Mushrik Kafir even if he was jahil and there is no excuse for the muqallid in Shirk Akbar.”
There is a lot of talk and discussion about the Shi’a Raafidhah and talk about the ignorance of the rulers and now this excuse has been given nowadays even to the Muftis of the Tawagheet!

In Islam there is nothing called excuse for those people of Ahl al Fatra, those who the Message never even reached them, we call them Kafir and there is no evidence to give them any excuse of ignorance.

The Messenger صلى الله عليه وسلم Muhammad Ibn ‘Abdillāh, the Imām of the Muwahhidīn said,

“Whenever you pass the grave of any Quraishi, say, “Muhammad gave news that you are in hellfire.”

That is the description of people of fatra, who the message never reached them and yet he was described as Kuffar. So what about those people who are born in Islam and have knowledge and recite the Qur'an day and night and then become ministers for the Tawagheet?

They are Kafir and their Kufr is clearer than the sun in the middle of the day! There has not been any excuse given for the Shirk Akbar to anybody, Kafir or jahil. Allah (swt) says in a Hadith Qudsi

“Allah looked to all the people of the earth and he hated them all Arab and Aajam except for a few true people of the book.”

No excuse was given to any of people Arab or Aajam regardless of their Jahl, so how can we give an excuse for Muslims who have the Hujjah in their hands?

The other excuse people talk about is the excuse of Khata', i.e. by mistake someone commits shirk Akbar. However if we stop making Takfeer on the one who makes shirk because of a mistake that he did not repent from will lead to us withdrawing from the Takfeer on many zindeeq that the Ummah have agreed upon. Hallaaj was killed with the consensus of the Ulemaa despite the fact that his kufr was only Ijtihad, and the karaamitah who worshipped the private parts of the women and claimed it was Ijtihad in shari'ah but they were declared Kafir and killed them and no excuse was given.

Istihlal is to believe that that thing is Halal, whether he believes that Allah (swt) did not forbid it or he believes that Allah permitted it.

Sheikh ul Islam said,

“Whoever swore against the Sahabah or claimed that Ali was god or that the Qur'an is distorted is Kafir. and whoever claim that the Sahabah became Kafir after the messenger except a few, there is no doubt that he is Kafir.” [Majmoo' Al Fattawa]

And he never gave them any excuse of ignorance and the same with the Jahmiyyah, they have no excuse of ignorance except in the hidden matters. The one who believes that Allah did not destine that nobody to be worshipped instead of him is Kafir or those who claimed that those who claim that because Allah destined everything so whoever worshipped other than Him, has destined that they worship Allah by worshipping idols or graves etc, they are Kafir.

We cannot make any justification to commit Shirk Akbar. May Allah (swt) allow us to follow the Sunnah correctly as Imam Shafi'i said: "The Shari'ah is the Sunnah.", So let it be known this is our position upon Shirk Akbar and Jahl.